

## Comments on the Border of Chaos (Comentarios al borde del caos)

Author: [Oscar García Mendoza](#)

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### PROLOGUE



Economics is often defined as the science that deals with the management of scarce resources. In our country, the definition has been reversed: Here, what is worth investigating is how we could go so wrong with such an abundance of resources. Humor has not infrequently attempted to answer this question, a very cruel joke tells that in creating the world, God lavished gifts on Venezuela: oil, old, aluminum, iron hills, the most beautiful places ... To see such splendor, the angel Gabriel rebuked God saying, "Lord, is it not unfair to give so much to a single country?", to which God replied: "Don't worry, to offset such generosity, I'll put the Venezuelans in charge of ruining it."

On another occasion, there was the popular genius of twisting the phrase of that president who took office and said upon assuming his mandate: "I'll handle abundance with a criteria of scarcity" to "I'll handle abundance with scarce criteria", and how well does it summarize our economic tragedy.

This, somehow, makes us realize how disturbing the issue has become for the average citizen. The economy affects us all, but only specialists give their opinion on the matter and they use to do it in such abstract terms that make the economy a sort of satanic sect to whose ceremonies only the initiated enter.

Fortunately, the work that the reader has in hands offers the advantage of touching the great problems of the Venezuelan economy of today in a way that does not sacrifice depth or clarity or an enjoyable read. Its provenance gives also the gift of synthesis so appreciated in these times.



The new book that [Oscar García Mendoza](#) offers us has been written -- or rather, has been in the process of being written, since it is a compilation of articles published in the Venezuelan press in recent years, accompanied in many cases with current comments -- during Venezuela's worst economic crisis. And, for us the most recent crisis is always the worst. Parodying a famous phrase we could say: "We are worse today than yesterday, but better than tomorrow." In such

circumstances, this work is of extraordinary value because in it, along with the analysis of our great problems, the reader will find a proposal, an invitation to seek exits.

In such particular, historical moments in which Venezuela lives today, smart men express their views not for the purpose of their being taken into account, but rather to record their dissent, to comply with the duty to express their thoughts, so that it cannot be said that it was not said. May this book, which [Oscar García Mendoza](#) offers to us today not remain simply as a log of our mistakes navigating the stormy sea of economy. Hopefully it will be of help when skilled helmsmen reroute the ship again with a navigational plan that takes into account, that beyond the waves that threaten us and that have led us adrift, the end is always a port.



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Written by: [Laureano Márquez P.](#)  
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